

US MMA Inventory State Newsletter

- APRIL '05 -

The Marine Managed Areas Inventory

The latest data for the Marine Managed Areas Inventory sites can be accessed at: www.mpa.gov/inventory/inventory.html

Data collection for the Inventory began in 2001, starting with federal programs reviewing sites that matched the MMA criteria. Federal programs include the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Park Service, and the Minerals Management Service. Currently, most federal sites have an initial set of the datafields entered, while some programs have complete datasets.



A sunset at Kiptopeke State Park, Virginia.

In 2002, the MMA Inventory Team began holding meetings with the states to initiate data collection for their sites. The states have played a vital role in developing the inventory and currently 32 of the 35 coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and commonwealths are actively participating in the data collection process.

Special Points of Interest:

- At the beginning of March, the new State Liaison, Paul Ticco joined the MPA Center to help coordinate state activities, including MMA Inventory activities
- In January the MMA Inventory Online Query and ArcIMS mapping Capability went live to the public
- In the fall of 2004, the MMA Team implemented QA/QC Summary Reports to aid in the state data review process

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Spotlight: Paul Ticco

Paul Ticco was recently hired by the Coastal States Organization and the MPA Center to be the new Marine Protected Area Project Manager. Prior to his return to DC, Paul served as the Coordinator of the Massachusetts Coastal Training Program at the Waquoit Bay NERR; the Assistant Director of the Virginia Sea Grant Program; Chief of the Comprehensive Coastal Planning Assistance Division of the Maryland DNR; a coastal program specialist at OCRM; and a professor of marine policy, coastal management and law at the University of Virginia, the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, the Duke University Marine Lab, and Bard College. He is also the current president of The Coastal Society, and received a BS from the University of Michigan, a MA from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. from the College of Marine Studies at the University of Delaware where his dissertation used socio-economic factors to analyze the use of marine protected areas worldwide to preserve biological diversity. Paul is very happy to be back working on MPA issues with so many great people and will definitely be an asset to the program. Welcome aboard, Paul!

[Paul Ticco can be reached at Paul.Ticco@noaa.gov]

Goals of the Marine Managed Areas Inventory

- Help regional, state, local, tribal, and federal managers, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and others to better analyze and understand what sites exist and the management capabilities.
- Compile data to assist in the analysis and assessments defined in the Executive Order on issues such as threats and effectiveness; and
- Provide a comprehensive information base to assist in the development of a national system of MPAs.

State Status

Five States are Available Online at this Time

The MMA Inventory team is currently working with 32 of the 35 coastal and Great Lakes states in the data collection process (see Figure 1). Of these, CNMI, MA, and WA have completed the MMA process and approved their data as **final** for posting. CA and VA are still in the state review process, but have agreed to post their data as **draft** until the reviews are complete.

To date, 23 states have submitted data for a total of



Managaha Marine Conservation Area, Northern Marianas Islands.

1,283 sites that have been through the MMA Team QA/QC and are currently being reviewed by the states (see Figure 2). Of these states, 17 have submitted partial GIS data for a total of 952 sites (GIS data for the sites submit-

At this time, three states have completed their review and agreed to post their data as final. Two additional states are posted as draft.

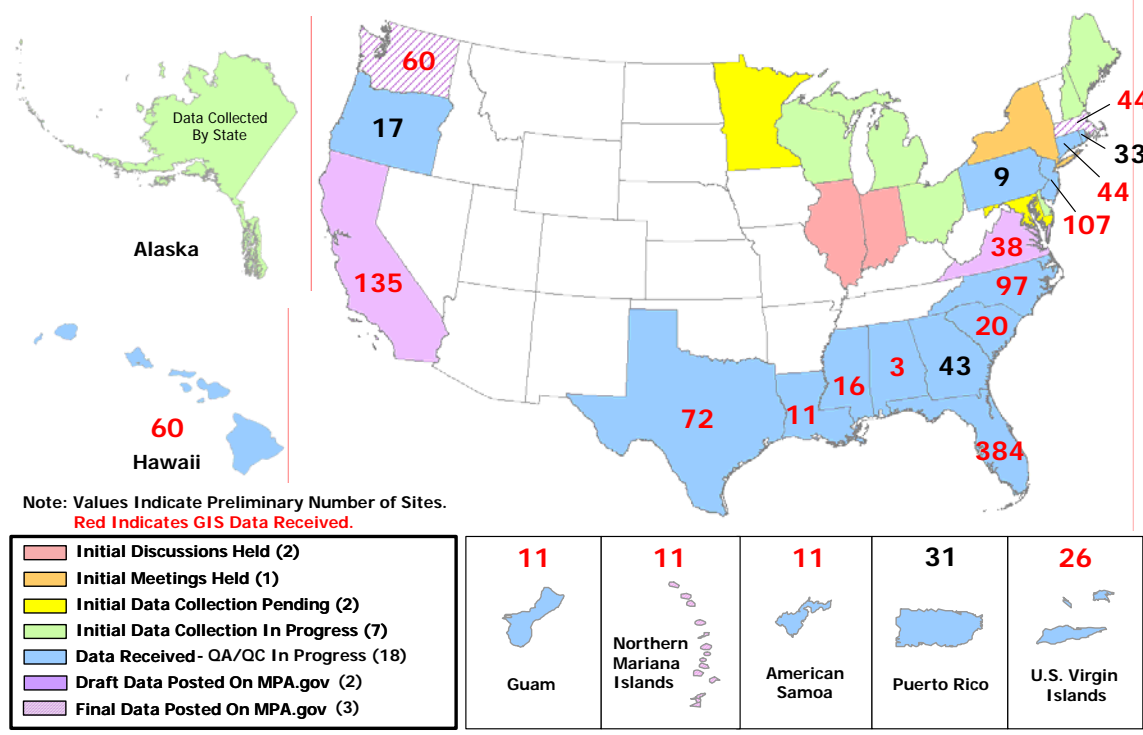
ted for NH and ME are not included in the figure of total sites they are being processed at this time) (see Figure 3).

The MPA Center supports the Coastal States Organization (CSO) in hiring Data Collection Specialists to assist the states in the data collection process when requested (see Figure 4). With the help of these Specialists,

initial state data collection is estimated to be completed by October of 2005 for all participating states. After initial data is received, the MMA Team and the new state liaison, Paul Ticco, will work to ensure each state reviews and gives approval to post their data.

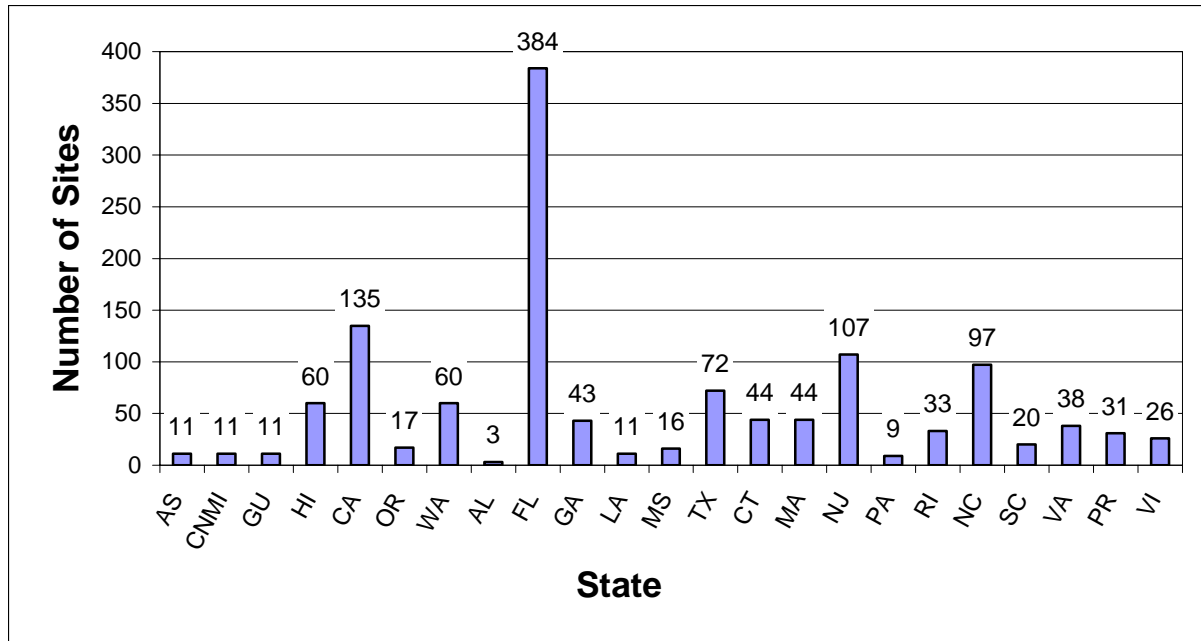
Figure 1.

Marine Managed Areas Inventory (Draft) State, Territorial, and Commonwealth Status



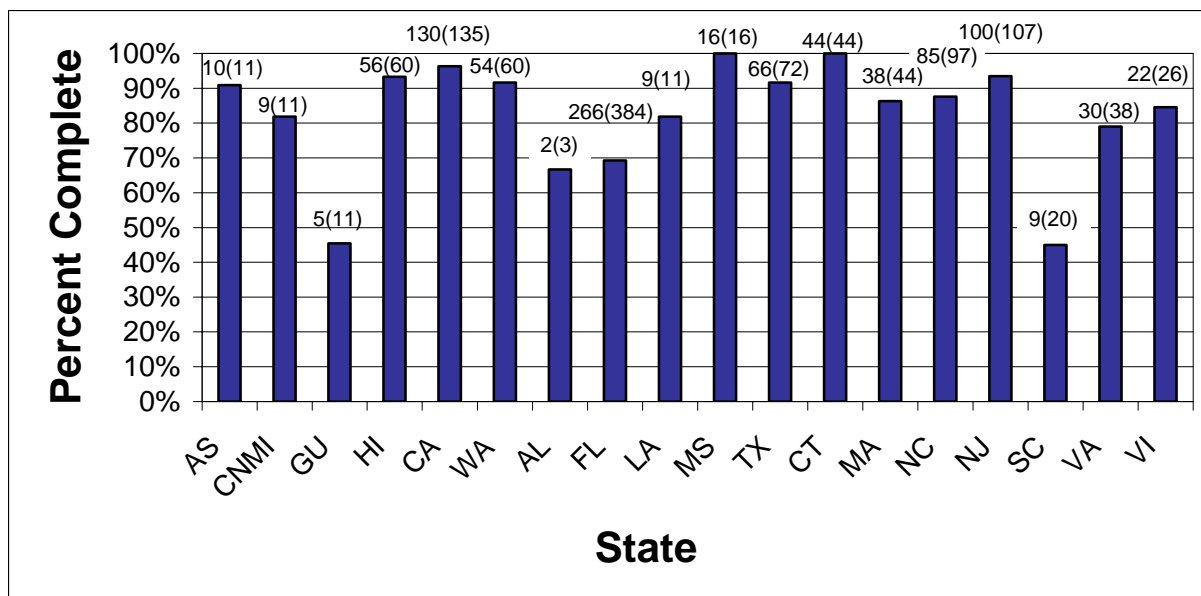
State Status

Figure 2. Data Submitted



*State contacts have submitted the full survey for all sites
= Total number of sites for each state*

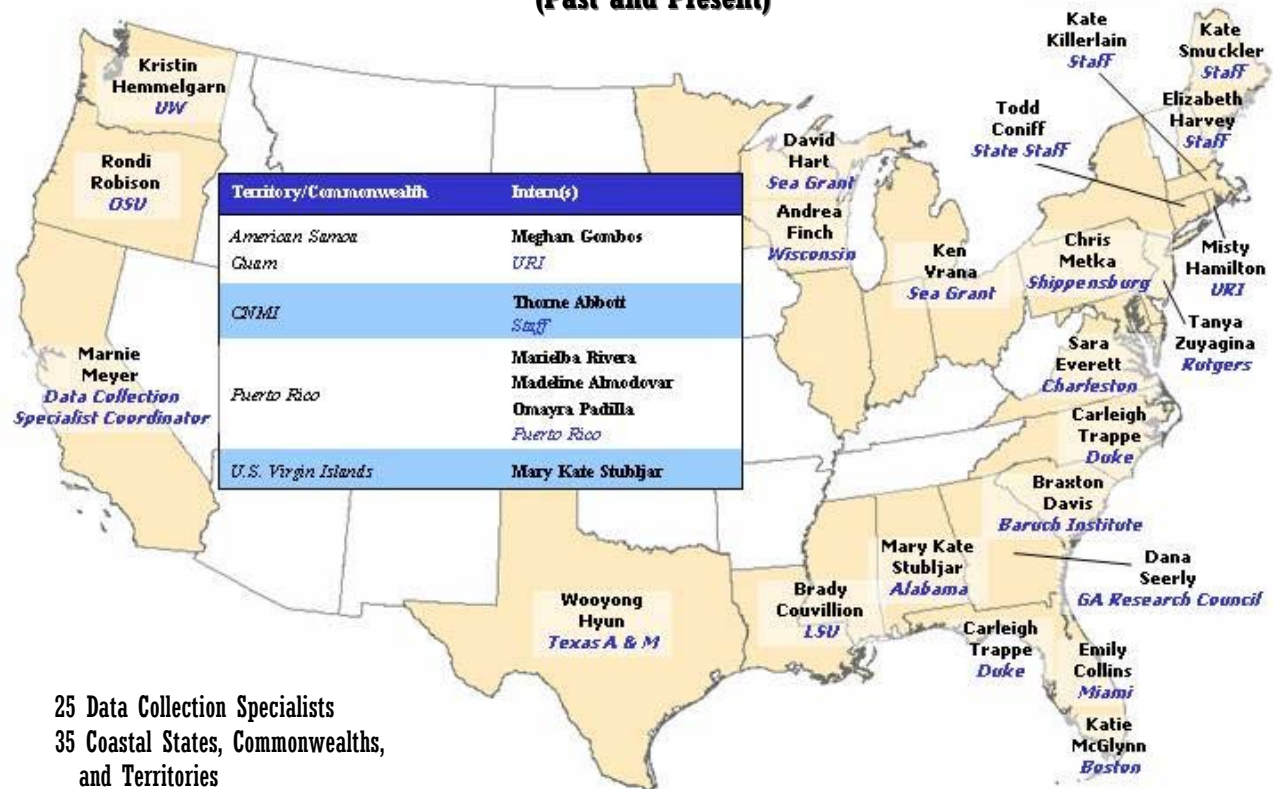
Figure 3. GIS Site Boundaries Submitted



*# = Number of site boundaries submitted for each state
(#) = Total number of sites for each state*

Figure 4.

NOAA Data Collection Support (Past and Present)



Quality Assurance/Quality Control & QA/QC Summary Reporting

All data that are submitted to the MMA Inventory must go through a two-step Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process to verify that sites meet the proposed MMA criteria and to check for accuracy, completeness, consistency, and grammar. The first QA/QC step is completed by the MMA Inventory Team. The results are incorporated into a secure, password-

QA/QC is conducted via a secure online *Data Editing and Review* website.

protected online *Data Edit and Review* website, where the data can be accessed, reviewed, and edited by contacts at the federal or state agencies for the second step of the QA/QC process. Once the QA/QC process is complete, the federal or state agency then authorizes the sites to be posted on the www.MPA.gov website for public view.

Since the fall of 2004 the MMA Team has been providing the states with a QA/QC Summary Report that highlights data quality and consistency issues for the overall dataset.

Each report provides suggestions for how to improve the data and points out questions that require additional information. These reports also let the state managers know if they have any sites that need clarification or whether or not they meet the MMA Criteria. For questions about your state's Summary Report, please contact Paul Ticco at Paul.Ticco@noaa.gov.



Children participate in bird watching at Virginia's York River State Park.

Database Currents

The database crew has been working on a user management system for the MMA editing application. Users will be able to change their password, create sub-users, give sub-users edit or view permissions, and assign sub-users to specific sites. Multiple users and sub-users will also be able to access the same sites. Once this system is complete the team will be modifying the editing application to include a wide range of additional features. Among them is the ability to track changes to the database including the user who made the changes. Currently, the application only notes the date the MMA site was created in the database and the date it was last modified. With this added *meta-data resolution* such as "who last modified," it is hoped that future problems with data inconsistencies will be resolved quickly and easily, or avoided altogether.

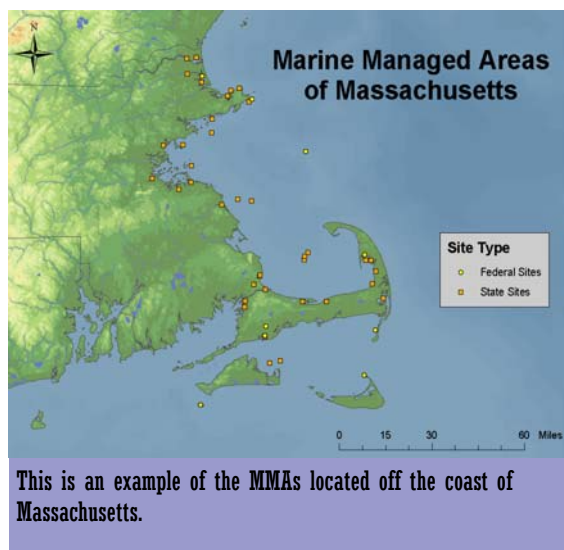


An example of a site profile and the *Data Edit and Review* website.

In addition to this new system, the MMA Team is continuing to work on enhancements to the online query tool, including improved documentation, improved site profile appearance along with greater data selection, and moving the *Overall Site Zone* to appear at the top of the list in the site profile. There are also future plans to add a pdf “on-the-fly” download for the site profile pages, to provide a picture upload for site profile pages, and to improve custom query features.

The U.S. Marine Managed Areas Atlas

Among the tools available for users to explore and obtain information from the MMA Inventory, the

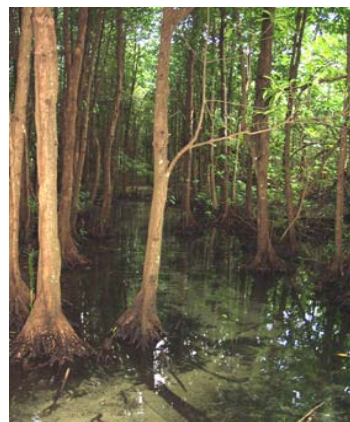


This is an example of the MMAs located off the coast of Massachusetts.

MPA website houses the U.S. Marine Managed Areas Inventory Atlas. The Atlas is an ArcIMS map service, which allows users to spatially identify and query MMAs throughout the United States, create custom maps, and download MMA data for further analysis. It is also designed for use as a presentation tool for both natural resource managers and academics. For each available site, the GIS data include both point and polygon shapefiles. Eventually, 'MMA significant' base layers will be added to the Atlas to aid users in readily identifying spatially relevant sites. The U.S. Marine Managed Areas Inventory Atlas is a basic tool for visualizing spatial data; however, the robustness of the ArcIMS interface will allow for future development of the MMA Inventory's online mapping capabilities.

MMA Inventory Federal Register Notice Update

NOAA and the Department of Interior (DOI) filed a Federal Register Notice (FRN) on July 23, 2003 to solicit public comment on the working criteria for including existing sites in the MMA Inventory (there are five proposed criteria and a definition for Cultural Resources), as well as comments on the data fields providing information about each site in the MMA Inventory. Twenty-two letters were received that contained comments reflecting a range of opinions and suggestions. Responses from NOAA and DOI, along with these comments received and the final criteria were published in the Federal Register in January 2005 and are now posted on www.MPA.gov.



A Mangrove forest in the Northern Mariana Islands.



The beach and rolling tide at San Diego Marine Life Refuge, California.

The Special Projects MMA TEAM - What do they Provide?

- Coordination
- Database Development and Maintenance
- Data Entry and Technical Support
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Data Edit and Review
- Online Query and Mapping
- GIS Analysis

For Questions, Please Contact:

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For more information on the MMA
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